

In a further embodiment, with music from a website, the customer may sing using the lyrics appearing on the monitor 424, through the microphones 422, and may simultaneously download the whole performance onto a compact disc or diskette using the read-write drive 400D. The customer may take the recorded performance and walk away or may have the option to transmit the performance to a website that participates in accepting on-one live performances for audition and promotional commercials.

As set forth above, the present invention makes it possible for the customer to select the desired merchandise by operating in accordance with the contents of a display and simultaneously accessing websites or homepages by operating the input means in accordance with the contents of the display. Additionally, the customer may download information from websites and may perform live for the websites which can be recorded. As a result, the vending machine door of the present invention can be used to attract greater patronage than previous devices. The invention also benefits consumers by providing more access to information and also to provide two-way interactive communication functions.

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4. The vending machine of claim 1, said computer assembly further comprising

6. The vending machine of claim 5, further comprising a speaker for broadcasting audio signals, where said data storage means transmits signals to said video screen and speaker to display advertising information from said data storage means.

user operated keypad and trackball for operating said computer to connect said computer to an internet site selected by said customer.

speakers for receiving audio transmissions from said internet site.

an audio display device, a microphone and audio recording device for recording audio by said customer.

a camera and video recording device for recording an image of said customer.

a central control unit for an audio-visual connection to an internet site;

a transmission unit for transmitting an audio-visual signal from said computer to said internet site;

a recording unit for recording and storing said audio-visual signals.

a storage unit for storing a plurality of different items for sale and a dispensing mechanism for dispensing the items from storage unit;

a payment-control device for receiving and detecting an amount of payment required for sale of an item and for actuating said dispensing mechanism when a payment is received to dispense a selected item; and

a computer assembly connected to said storage and dispensing unit, selector device and payment control device, and having a computer, video display screen and a modem, whereby said computer is connected to and actuated by said selector device for automatically connecting said computer to a pre-selected internet site and automatically displaying information obtained from said internet address on said video screen for viewing by the customer.

[illegible]

24. The method of claim 13, further including providing at least one of telephone, cable or satellite communications on said vending machine.

25. The method of claim 13, further including providing a microphone on the vending machine.

26. A method of attracting greater patronage to a vending machine, said method comprising

associating means for internet access with said vending machine.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein at least part of said means is located on a door of the vending machine.

28. ~~The method of claim 26, wherein the means for internet access displays at least one of informational, entertainment or advertising when a patron is not accessing the internet.~~

29. A method of manufacturing vending machines wherein a vending machine is provided to dispense an article to be purchased by a consumer, the improvement comprising incorporating an interactive consumer accessible internet communication system into the vending machine.

30. A vending machine produced by the method of claim 29.

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